

The Matthewis Persen House Museum & Cultural Heritage Center

2013 Tour Season Schedule & Special Events



Tours, Exhibits, Events & More!



May 25 – August 31: Tuesday through Friday 10am - 4pm & Saturdays 9 - 3pm

September 7 – November 23: Saturdays Only 10am – 2pm

- All Season Special Exhibit – Nina Postupack, Ulster County Clerk presents *Artifacts Uncovered: A Closer Look*** a year-long exhibit featuring an up close and personal look at some of the artifacts found in the archaeological dig done at the Persen House. Take a peek at a 1200 BC projectile point and see the second only known Bodkin in New York State. You like cannonballs? We have them and know where they were found in the house. What has brought the house good fortune? Could it be the old shoe found in the attic of the house? Explore, learn more and have some fun all at the same time!
- All Season Special Exhibit – The Reher Center for Immigrant Culture and History presents *Rondout Revisited*** an exhibit that highlights the three stages in the history of the Rondout in Kingston, New York. This exhibit is located upstairs in the Persen House and is sure to please all. There are many photographs to see! The Reher Center highlights the social and mercantile history of the 19th and early 20th century in the Rondout, Kingston's waterfront.
- May 25 Grand Opening of the 2013 Persen House Season** – Help throw open the doors and cut the ribbon to kick off the 2013 Season! Season schedules will be available and the first tours of the season will be given! It's sure to be a good event!
- Ulster County Historical Society – *Phillip Ryan Map Collection Exhibit*** The Ulster County Historical Society, founded in 1859, will be hosting at the Persen House and exhibiting the Phil Ryan Map Collection. This Map Collection, dating from 1729-1957 is magnificent! Stop by and see military maps, European atlases, property maps and more!
- June 1 The Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources** – Jim Davis is back at the House and sharing his knowledge about the importance of migratory fish of the Hudson to the historical local economy. Visiting the House when Jim is Guest Hosting makes for an informative and fun event. The Wittenberg Center's purpose is to facilitate a bridging of ancient wisdom with contemporary life.
- June 8 Persen House Museum Staff** – Join the Persen House Museum Staff at the House on this day and take a self guided tour or a staff tour and learn about the five phases of this House and how the happenings in this house reveal Kingston's and Ulster County's rich local history.
- June 15 Town of Saugerties Tourism** - Please join Village Historian and Chair of the Town of Saugerties Tourism Marjorie Block as she hosts at the House on this day. Marjorie will provide information and brochures about The Kiersted House, Opus 40, Saugerties Art Tour and the "Discover Saugerties" guide. After all, Saugerties was voted one of the "Coolest Small Towns" by readers of Budget Travel magazine and Marjorie can recommend activities that will allow for the full Saugerties experience!
- June 22 Kingston Cub Scouts Pack 103** - Join the Kingston Cub Scouts for their community service day at the Persen House. Take a tour with our young citizens and get a unique perspective on the House and its history. While you're there, make sure to take a look at their photos from recent events and activities!
- June 29 Red Feather Drummers, Members of the Association of Native Americans of the Mid-Hudson Valley** - The Red Feather Drummers invite children of all ages to join them at the House. The group will share Native American storytelling, singing, dancing, crafts & drumming. Come listen to traditional stories that teach respect for others, animals, nature and the earth.
- July 6 The British Brigade / 16th Queen's Light Dragoons** – They're back and what a great day this will be! The British Brigade will be exhibiting "Fashion Design from the 18th Century" featuring homemade women's clothing! This exhibit will feature many homemade dresses and the ever-important accessories such as hats, gloves and shoes worn by the women in the 18th century at the time of the Revolution. Do not count the men of the British Brigade out! They will be at the House as well and their red coats will be outstanding!
- July 13 The Ulster County Historical Society – *The Language of Fans Exhibit*** Did you know that Fans have a language of their own? Come visit the House on this day and learn about the special language that Fans do have and the many wonderful services and offerings from the Ulster County Historical Society.

- July 20** **RSVP Presents *Viewing Ulster County Through the Lens of Phyllis McCabe Photograph Show***— Please join members of RSVP, America's largest volunteer network for people age 55 and over, as they present a show of the photographs taken by Ulster County's own Phyllis McCabe. Stop by the House and see Ulster County through the camera lens of Phyllis and also learn about the RSVP organization.
- July 27** **Save Native Sites presents *A Day of Native American Celebration and Culture***. At 11:00 a representative of the Ramapough people will give a lecture about the part the Ramapough played in the building of our nation. At 2:00 join Dave Holden, a hiking guide licensed by the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation, for a talk about ancient trails and old roads in the region. Also, a representative will speak on the Dakota and First Nations Unity Ride and Two Row Wampum Belt Renewal Campaign, kicking off in Albany on July 27th and arriving in Kingston on August 3rd.
- Aug 3** **Hurley Heritage Society** – Members of the Hurley Heritage Society will be available at the House and exhibiting materials that pertain to the importance and prominent role that corn plays in the Town of Hurley. They will also be sharing information on the history of the building of the Ashokan Reservoir, New York City's main source of clean water, built at the turn of the 20th century, and the impact this had on the town inhabitants, changing their lives forever.
- Aug 10** **Ulster County Historical Society – *Old Time Vacation Places in Ulster County Exhibit*** The Ulster County Historical Society will be exhibiting materials to take you back in time and see the favorite vacation spots in Ulster County from yesteryear. Come and see materials from the old hotels and resorts in the County and step back in time!
- Aug 17** **Plattekill Historical Society** – Join members of the Plattekill Historical Society as they celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Wallkill School District. On exhibit will be photographs and materials about old school houses in the Town of Plattekill. Ever go to a one-room schoolhouse? Plattekill did!
- Aug 24** **Persen House Museum Staff** - Join the Persen House Museum Staff at the House on this day and take a self guided tour or a staff tour and learn about the five phases of this House and how the happenings in this house reveal Kingston's and Ulster County's rich local history.
- Aug 31** **The British Brigade / 16th Queen's Light Dragoons** – As the anniversary of the Burning of Kingston during the tumultuous time of the American Revolution draws near, the 16th Queen's Light Dragoon British re-enactors will stage a British Occupation of the Persen House. Red Coats will be everywhere and they will be seeking recruits for the King! This event is always a fun, educational and entertaining day when the Red Coats occupy the Persen House. Join this popular re-enactment group at the House and you will be guaranteed a good time! Can they recruit you?
- Sept 7** **Third Ulster Militia Re-Enactors** – What a treat to have the Ulster 3rd at the House for the Day! You are sure to be educated and entertained at the same time. The Ulster 3rd is a reenactment group that sets up one-day encampments and has also done extended stays further afield to participate in larger historical events. Some of their local events have included the Kiersted House/Saugerties Historical Society, the Bevier House/Ulster County Historical Society and Stone House Day in the Town of Hurley. Stop by and see local history come alive!
- Sept 14** **Persen House Museum Staff** – Join the Persen House Museum Staff at the House on this day and take a self guided tour or a staff tour and learn about the five phases of this House and how the happenings in this house reveal Kingston's and Ulster County's rich local history.
- Sept 21** **Friends of Historic Kingston** - Please join volunteers from the Friends of Historic Kingston as they take you on a tour of this 1661 House. The "Friends" will also share their vast knowledge regarding the Uptown and Rondout areas and the Fred J. Johnston House tours. It is always a treat to visit the House when the "Friends" are hosting! You will learn so much and have some fun too!
- Sept 28** **The Ulster County Historical Society – *Agricultural History of the Rondout Valley Exhibit*** The Ulster County Historical Society, founded in 1859, will be presenting materials of the important historical role of agriculture in the Rondout Valley. Rondout Valley's rich fertile soil has been farmed since before Henry Hudson sailed up the Hudson River on the Half Moon!
- Oct 5 - 26** **Special Exhibit - Ulster County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee** – For the 3rd year of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, the Sesquicentennial Committee will be exhibiting materials pertaining to the medical treatments applied to Civil War Soldiers. In addition, there will be information exhibited regarding prisoners and prisoner of war camps. Stop by the House and enrich your Civil War History!

Oct 5 Burning of Kingston Re-Enactment Day Event

The British are Coming!! The British are Coming!! – Be sure to be at the Persen House during the re-enactment of the 1777 Burning of Kingston as there will be a MAJOR battle at and around the House between the British and the local militia. The British just might ask you “To whom is your allegiance?” Will you be ready to answer? Will you say the King?? Will you support the Revolution?

Colonial Game Day - Nina Postupack, Ulster County Clerk will be hosting Colonial Game Day where you will participate in games that were popular in the Colonial era. Each game offers a unique history and skill set, whether it is pure entertainment, like Jacob’s ladder or a test of dexterity like Game of Graces. Fun for children of all ages!

Persen House Scavenger Hunt - Developed again for children of all ages! Nina Postupack, Ulster County Clerk invites you to come to the House and see just how many of the items in the Scavenger Hunt you can find. Do you think you can find the Sun Face? How about the late 19th century wallpaper from France? Can you find that too? Put on your detective hat and search the house for these interesting items.

“Persen House for Kids” Activity Packets - Published by the County Clerk’s Office, Persen House for Kids was developed to enhance the Persen House experience. The packet was created as a fun activity book for students to learn more about the wonderful Persen House. Make sure you pick one up while you are at the House!

Oct 12 The Cook Family - Back for the 4th year, Kate Cook and her daughters return to Persen House to guide visitors through the House and share their wealth of knowledge on local restaurants, museums and happenings. Join the Cooks as they guide you through the House and see history through the eyes of our young citizens!

Oct 19 Ulster County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee –In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the Committee will offer a program from 10:00am to 12:00 noon that shows the important role that Ulster County played in this war. Please join members as they host the Matthewis Persen House and pay tribute to Ulster County Civil War veterans.

Oct 26 The Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources – Jim Davis from the Wittenberg Center will be exhibiting Native American artifacts found on Arrowhead Farm in Kerhonkson in circa 1913. He will also share the harvesting practices of the local native peoples, which has been passed on to him by his Grandfather Davis. This will include the origins of the Halloween Jack-o-Lantern! This event has become a Persen House tradition, so join Jim as he shares Native American traditions.

Nov 2 Historical Society of Shawangunk & Gardiner – Please join members of the Shawangunk & Gardiner Historical Society as they provide guided tours of the Persen House and share their unique knowledge of the Shawangunk & Gardiner area.

Nov 9 1st Ulster County Militia Re-Enactors – The original 1st Regiment, Ulster County Militia was composed of citizen soldiers from the area now within the boundaries of Kingston, Saugerties and Woodstock. Members promote the education of the public as to military and social life in the colonial and Revolutionary War eras through demonstrations of everyday crafts and skills and the typical life of the militiaman. So join the 1st Ulster Militia as they bring history alive!

Nov 16 Red Feather Drummers, Members of the Association of Native Americans of the Mid-Hudson Valley - Join the Red Feather Drummers for a talk on the meaning of the “drum” and for traditional storytelling that tells the tales of this culture.

Nov 23 Persen House Museum Staff - Join the Persen House Museum Staff at the House on this day and take a self guided tour or a staff tour and learn about the five phases of this House and how the happenings in this house reveal Kingston’s and Ulster County’s rich local history.